

## Interview Summary

Application No.  
09/253,014

Applicant(s)

Woolston

Examiner

Demetra R. Smith

Group Art Unit

2763

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Demetra R. Smith

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) John Phillips

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview Mar 21, 2000

Type: ☐ Telephonic ☒ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☒ applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, brief description:

Agreement ☒ was reached. ☐ was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: claims 55-63

Identification of prior art discussed:

Silverman et al (5,136,501) and Dedrick(5,752,238).

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

Agreement was reached that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the "list of categories" limitation in claims 55-63. However agreement was not reached that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the "advertisement." Applicant will file an amendment to further clarify the claimed features and to add appropriate dependent claims.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

1. ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. ☐ Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

Examiner Note: You must sign and stamp this form unless it is an attachment to a signed Office action.

## Notes for Interview

Serial No. 09/253,014

21 March 2000

- 17 Independent claims: 11, 20, 26, 33, 40, 43, 49, and 54-63
- Independent claims 56-63
  - All systems claims reciting various combinations of the following features:
    - **First data storage location:** holds information, received from a first network participant, about an item to be auctioned (all claims 56-63)
      - certain claims recite that the first data storage location corresponds to a predetermined category chosen from among a list of categories (claims 58-63)
    - **Second data storage location:** holds information corresponding to an advertisement to be displayed on a web page (claims 57, 59-63)
    - **Verification process:** verifies identity of first network participant before accepting auction item information from the participant (all claims 56-63)
    - **Display process:** displays, to a plurality of network users, information about the item for auction (all claims 56-63)
      - also can display an advertisement (claims 56, 57, 59-63)
      - also can display list of item categories (claims 58-63)
      - also can map information from a database containing the first memory location into an HTML format for display (claims 60-63)
      - also can include a **third data storage location** that holds a tracking identifier for an item to be auctioned (claims 62, 63)
    - **Auction process:** verifies bidders' (network users') identification and receives a bid from a verified bidder for the item being auctioned (all claims 56-63)
    - **Notification process:** notifies a bidding network participant that his/her bid has been accepted (all claims 56-63)
    - **Fee calculation process:** calculates a fee payable to the system at the close of the auction (claims 60, 62, 63)

- Independent claim 55
  - Method claim reciting many of the same features recited variously in claims 56-63:
    - Receiving information about an item to be auctioned including a category selected from among a predetermined list of categories
    - Generating a unique tracking identifier for the item
    - Auctioning the item with an auction process program
    - Presenting the auction to a plurality of network participants
    - Receiving one or more bids and updating the item's information (e.g., to reflect new bid received) in response
- Independent claims 11-54
  - Various Internet-auction system and method claims reciting one or both of the following features:
    - Processing received information about an item to be auctioned in an Internet auction presentation format (claims 11, 20, 26, 33, 40, 43, 54)
    - Handling payment information and/or instructions (claims 11, 20, 33, 40, 43, 49)